

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

**Chairman**

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JAPANESE MEDICAL MISSIONARIES REPORT

The Overseas Medical Cooperative Service of the Japan Christian Medical Association, a member of the Japan NCC, met in Tokyo last week primarily to hear reports of members serving in other nations.

Approximately 300 participants, mainly doctors and nurses, came together under the theme "All are Brothers".

The reports were made by Dr. Noboru Iwamura, medical missionary to Nepal, and Dr. Takeshi Umeyama, medical missionary to Indonesia, both of whom have spent more than three years in medical service abroad.

Explaining their work with slides, both speakers stressed the vast areas remaining without adequate medical facilities and personnel. Dr. Umeyama noted that in Sumedan (phonetic spelling), with a population of more than 550,000, there are only four medical doctors, himself included. While in Japan he hopes to secure X-ray equipment to take back with him soon to Indonesia where it is in great need.

CHRISTIAN LABOR SEMINAR

A Tokyo Christian Labor Seminar sponsored by the United Church of Christ (Kyodan) will be held from September 7 to October 30 at the Seiwa Church in Adachi Ward, Tokyo.

The various emphases, stresses and conflicts of the labor situation today in Japan can be seen in the topics on which lectures will be given by church, politi-



cal and labor leaders.

The following lectures will be given: The Present and Future Prospects of Medium and Small Enterprises; Medium and Small Enterprises Under an Open Economy System; Man, Labor and Faith; Sokagakkai and Laborers; Socialism-Past and Future in Japan; Human Relations in Cottage Industry; Party Politics and Democracy in Japan; and the New Ethics of Modern Laborers.

#### 14TH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WEEK

The 14th annual "Christian Education Week" sponsored by the NCCED, the Association of Christian Schools, and the Association of Christian Kindergartens has been set for the week September 20 - 27.

During the week lectures will be given and rallies held all over Japan stressing the importance of Christian education.

The offerings received at the various meetings have been designated this year for the children of Indonesia. A goal of 2 million yen has been set. Last year almost 3 million yen was offered for Christian work in Formosa, especially among children.

The theme for this year is "We are One".

#### KYODAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Besides the 450 delegates to the 13th General Assembly of the United Church of Christ in Japan to be held from October 26 to 30, there will be many guests from other Churches in Japan and foreign countries.

Expected to attend the meeting are representatives of the Japan Interboard Committee member churches; guests from Formosa, Okinawa and the Philippines; representatives from the Japan NCC and NCC member denominations, Japan Christian Church, and the Reformed Church (Japan). The guests are to give greetings on the third day of the Assembly.

As a departure from the custom of delivering a sermon at the opening session, the moderator will give an address on the present and future prospects of the Kyodan.

#### AMERICAN CHARISMATIC LEADERS INVITED

The Original Gospel Movement, one of the three largest "new religions" in the Christian tradition, has invited four American charismatic leaders who arrived on August 22.

The American leaders invited are: Dr. Robert Rice, a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, U.S. to Korea; Dr. James Brown, professor at Lincoln University; Dr. Leonard Ivanz, professor at Princeton Seminary; and Rev. George King, a Methodist minister in North Carolina.

The four men, on their way back to the States from Korea will participate in a consultation with leaders of "God's Tabernacle Group" and ministers of many other denominations, after taking part in an Original Gospel meeting.

Last spring, the group had as their guest Dr. Otto Piper of Princeton Theological Seminary who introduced them to the U.S. as a new Holy Spirit movement.



The Original Gospel Movement is widely known in Japan for their emphasis on faith healing and their walking on fire. Actually how many are followers of this movement is unknown, but their news organ "The Light of Life" is said to have 15,000 readers. They do not use the term "Church" but refer to their meetings as "God's Tabernacle Group". There are more than 220 such meeting places in Japan.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICES COMMEMORATING END OF WORLD WAR II

The 15th of August was observed by the Japanese people as the 19th anniversary of the end of World War II. Memorial services were held throughout Japan.

The Social Affairs Committee of the United Church of Christ held a memorial service at the Chidorigafuchi cemetery with about 100 present.

Special rites held at the Yasukuni Shrine, attended by the Emperor and high government officials, for the first time since the end of the war, were protested by many Japanese. Those objecting to such rites maintain that the service is religious, conducted by Shinto priests, this being contrary to the National Constitution which prohibits favorable treatment of one religious body.

All workers in government offices observed a minute of silent prayer at noon on the 15th, but newspapers noted that most others ignored the government request for volunteer prayer by all citizens at the time.

#### RETIRED MISSIONARY INVITED BACK BY FRIENDS

A former Canadian missionary to Japan, Miss Annie Allen, is to be invited back to Japan after 23 years absence by Japanese friends. Mrs. Seiko Yasuhara, who was led by Miss Allen to Christ, and some other former friends have decided to invite her back to express their appreciation for what Miss Allen did for them and their country.

Miss Allen was 27 years old when she was sent to Toyo Eiwa Girls' School in Tokyo. She not only taught at the school but also worked in slums and areas where there were many houses of prostitution. She did much in rehabilitating the prostitutes by having them taught skills at factories.

She also built a center called the Aisei-kan which served as a Sunday School, kindergarten, night school and case work center. She organized club activities in flower arrangement, cooking, singing, Bible classes, etc. Devoting herself to such service for about 40 years, she returned home on furlough 1941 when the war broke out and she was unable to return because of retirement age.

Miss Allen and her sister will arrive in Tokyo on October 17.  
OUT OF ASHES

Many of the churches in Japan today are the result of post-war pioneer evangelistic effort and among these there is one in Tokyo which averages about 20 adult baptisms a year.

Rev. Kobayashi, with his family and a handful of others were present at the dedication service of a quonset hut in September 16, 1951. This was the Musashi Koyama Church.

Beginning his evangelistic work in the Shinagawa area near the site of the present church building in 1936, Rev. Kobayashi and his small congregation were completely burned out in March of 1945 by fires caused by bombings. Moving a short distance west to the Meguro area the Kobayashi family was again burned out in May of the same year. The members of the congregation scattered to various parts of Japan.



The Kobayashi family travelled to his home town in Hiroshima prefecture, but here they were again burned out. They passed the bleak, early post-war years there, but the autumn of 1951 saw them once more in Tokyo beginning anew.

During the first year there were an almost unbelievable twelve baptisms. At last the prayers of Rev. Kobayashi and his family were bearing fruit. The members of the small church were very faithful and rejoiced in sharing their faith with others.

Today the Musashi Koyama Church has 164 members with 20 baptisms last year. There are 195 children in the Sunday School with 21 teachers.

Rev. Kobayashi says, "At the time during the war when the members were scattered and I had to leave, the seeming futility of the situation was overpowering, but beginning all over again after the war I resolved that everything was to be done with the prayer that it would be pleasing to God."

Stressing visitating evangelism from the start, the members were trained and encouraged to become friends with seekers and neighbors and to lead them to church.

Known as a congregation with a deep fellowship, the members rejoice in the addition of a new member as an "addition to our family."

Dividing the surrounding residential area into 9 blocs, 2 or 3 members are assigned to each bloc for visitation evangelism. Drawing a circle around the church with a diameter of about one mile, Rev. Kobayashi says there are about 50,000 people living here for which they are responsible.

Rev. Kobayashi's son, a graduate of Meiji Gakuin, is now serving as an assistant pastor.

#### DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN LITERATURE COMMISSION APPOINTED

The Reverend Shiro Aoyama of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church was officially appointed to the position of Director of the Christian Literature Commission of the National Christian Council of Japan at the Executive Board Meeting on July 29. The position has been vacant for a long time. He is a veteran in the publishing field. He has been an executive member of Seibunsha, a Lutheran Publishing House and Osaka Christian Bookstore.

#### THE JOHN R. MOTT LECTURE SERIES III

The John R. Mott Lecture Series III, consisting of four lectures on "Grace & Apostleship" were delivered before the Second Assembly of the East Asia Christian Conference in February this year in Bangkok, Thailand. This lecture series was compiled and published in The South East Asia Journal of Theology (April, 1964).

The four lectures are "Understanding the Tides of History (I)" by Philippe Maury; "Understanding the Tides of History(II)" by M.M. Thomas; "Evangelism in East Asia" by Kyung Chik Han; and "The Cultivation of the Christian Life" by Paul Verghese. The volume is purchasable at the NCC office in Tokyo for ¥400 per copy, which includes postage.

#### ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE IS TO BE HELD

The NCC is preparing an ecumenical Christian Worship Service during the Tokyo Olympics to be held on Oct. 22 at Aoyama Gakuin Chapel. All are invited to experience unity in Christ. From Sept. 15 through Nov. 5, information about the Protestant churches and organizations will be given at the NCC Office 561-5003, the Public Relation Office of the Interboard Committee 561-6966.